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Letter dated 21 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a press statement released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 16 June 2017, with regard to the "sanctions" and "pressure" against the DPRK (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
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Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Press statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations with regard to the "sanctions" and "pressure" imposed by the United States and its followers on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The despicable sanctions and pressure imposed on the DPRK by the U.S. and its vassal forces have reached an extreme.

The DPRK's development of nuclear force, which the U.S. and its vassal forces use as a pretext for sanctions, is an outcome of the extremely hostile policy of the U.S. and its nuclear threat against the DPRK and, hence, is a legitimate and righteous measure for self-defence to protect the sovereignty and the right to existence of the country and nation.

Not a single article or provision in the Charter of the United Nations and other international laws stipulates that a nuclear test or ballistic rocket launch poses a threat to international peace and security. If, nonetheless, anyone were ever to be held accountable for carrying them out, those countries that have conducted most of the nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches so far should be subject to sanctions before any others.

Nevertheless, the U.S. and other hostile forces have waged a constant sanctions and pressure campaign against the DPRK, taking issue with its exercise of the right to self-defence, and now they are openly pursuing the criminal intent to completely suffocate the DPRK's national economy and impoverish the people's livelihood.

Their sanctions have grown so utterly vicious and barbaric today as to try to obliterate the rights to existence and development of the State and people of the DPRK, destroy modern civilization and bring the world back into medieval darkness.

The very nature of these sanctions, running counter to human ethics and civilization, finds its expression in the fact that the hostile forces cooked up the so-called "sanctions resolutions" of the Security Council in the most despicable and heinous way and are enforcing them upon the international community.

The United Nations "sanctions resolutions" are so preposterous that the wide-ranging import and export prohibition or restriction enforced by them has included even luxury goods while listing numerous entities and individuals to be subject to sanctions, allegedly aiming to contain the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile-related activities. These "resolutions" are producing an endless series of bizarre and ridiculous episodes.

The prohibition on the export of underground resources, including coal, was indiscriminately expanded, and the control over "dual-use" items was exercised in such a careless way that these measures are having adverse consequences for the people's livelihood and normal economic activities.

Last year, the customs office of a certain country seized even frozen chicken, cosmetics packaging and zipper tab production equipment and materials, as well as frequency stabilizers and voltage regulators to be used at fishery stations, and returned them after several months.

These are only a few of the many cases that testify to the fact that the "sanctions resolutions" rigged up at the Security Council, allegedly to protect international peace and security, are actually pursuing the nefarious objective of impeding the development of the overall national economy of the DPRK.

"Resolution 2270 (2016)", coercively adopted at the Security Council, was weird enough to include recreational sports equipment in the list of luxury goods.

As a result, a country in Europe is prohibiting the export of sports equipment and apparatus, such as skis, yachts, mountaineering boots, snowmobiles, snow groomers and even billiard tables, to the DPRK for the reason of implementation of the "resolution".

Another country prohibits the export of sports apparatus, including sports firearms, ammunition and archery equipment, which the DPRK used to import regularly, for fear of violating the "sanctions resolutions".

In November 2016, seven sets of diving flippers addressed to the Rungna Dolphinarium in Pyongyang were confiscated by the customs office in a European country, as they were classified as luxury goods.

It had been decided to hold the 2017 World Junior Judo Championship and the 2018 International Weightlifting Federation Junior World Championship in the DPRK, but the venues have now been changed to other countries. One country has denied entry visas to the teams and delegations of the DPRK to attend the international sports tournaments, while the support grants legally provided by the International Olympic Committee and other international sports federations are not being remitted to the DPRK.

Archery equipment could never become ballistic rockets and sports rifles could never be used to launch nuclear warheads, but some countries, either overpowered by or blindly following the high-handed practices of the hostile forces, are bringing disgrace to the ideal and purpose of sports.

These brutal and barbarous sanctions and pressure have stretched out their claws to the public health and humanitarian areas as well.

The United Nations Children's Fund country office in the DPRK ordered 24.4 tons of antimalarial mosquito repellent (residual insecticide spray) from other countries in September 2016, but they were unable to sign a contract for the transport of the goods, as that would have breached the United Nations "sanctions resolutions". The goods could never leave their place of origin and have remained piled up in a warehouse for nine months as of today.

In November 2016, the country office procured 15 mobile X-ray units and a reagent for the diagnosis of tuberculosis, but the delivery was delayed for six months for the reason that those were classified as "dual-use" items by the United Nations "sanctions resolutions" on the DPRK.

In January 2017, 100,000 ampoules of ephedrine imported by a health company of the DPRK were unreasonably seized, although the company had gone through the procedure of informing the International Narcotics Control Board in advance, as per the regulations.

The fact that items urgently needed for the treatment of chronic diseases are subject to sanctions for such absurd reasons as "dual-use" proves that the clause in the "sanctions resolutions" that underlines that the measures imposed by the resolutions are "not intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences for the civilian population of the DPRK" is only a deception and that the "sanctions" are actually targeting the daily life and the very existence of the people of the DPRK.

Some countries in Europe refuse to grant basic diplomatic privileges and immunities to DPRK diplomatic passport holders and treat them with impudence by randomly searching their luggage and confiscating used household items, cosmetics and even carbonated drinks and children's bicycles, in flagrant disregard of universally recognized legal norms and practices.

They are so crazy and obsessed about "sanctions" that diplomats do not make any difference to them and children's bicycles, refrigerators, kitchen utensils and hairdryers appear to be weapons of mass destruction-related items.

As seen above, the sanctions and blockade racket aimed at isolating and suffocating the DPRK is going beyond the limits.

The U.S. is the primary mastermind of this frantic campaign of sanctions and pressure on the DPRK.

Not only did the U.S. fabricate the unprecedented, vicious "sanctions resolutions" against the DPRK by abusing the mandate of the Security Council, and make attempts to drag all the countries of the world into their implementation, but it maliciously resorted to "unilateral sanctions" against the DPRK, claiming to close a loophole in the United Nations sanctions.

The "sanctions" of all sorts that the U.S. has imposed on the DPRK for more than half a century are now becoming all the more reckless, backed by such evil laws as the "North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016".

The newly emerged Trump administration announced "maximum pressure and engagement" as its policy towards the DPRK, and continues to invent different kinds of "sanctions", including "sanctions on specially designated nationals", which targeted even the supreme dignity of the DPRK, in an attempt to comprehensively furnish its domestic law to accommodate the "unilateral sanctions" on any entity or individual of the DPRK.

A quick calculation shows that 15 Party and Government organs, 73 firms and entities and about 90 individuals of the DPRK are currently on the sanctions list, together with 16 airplanes and 20 trade cargo ships, but hardly any of them are associated with the munitions area at all.

The U.S. is also making desperate and frenzied moves to involve other countries in the "sanctions" campaign against the DPRK.

The U.S. state secretary said on a recent occasion that the U.S. had made it clear to all countries, including China and Russia, that they should join in imposing "sanctions" on the DPRK. He also said that if a country claims that the total amount of its trade with the DPRK does not exceed $5 million, the U.S. would ask the country to reduce it to $2 million. This fully reveals the true colours of the U.S. as a gang of muggers.

The U.S. has employed a "secondary boycott" to achieve its wicked aim, and businesspersons and firms of several countries, including China and Russia, have already fallen victim to it and suffered huge losses in their economic activities and business management, as they were unreasonably put on the sanctions list of the U.S.

Besides, the U.S. is coercing all the countries that established diplomatic relations with the DPRK to sever the relations or scale down their level, in a blatant violation of international laws, including the Charter of the United Nations and the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Except for one Latin American country and two or three Asian countries that show signs of having attempted to reduce the number of DPRK diplomats in their

countries under the pressure of the U.S., the overwhelming majority of the countries resolutely reject the U.S. demand, regarding it as interference in their internal affairs, or simply ignore it.

The sanctions campaign waged by the U.S. and its vassal forces is a heinous act of hostility and aggression against the DPRK to deprive it of its sovereignty and right to existence and development, and to overthrow its ideology and system by all means.

If the high-handed and arbitrary practices of the U.S. are tolerated, allowed and sympathized with, their spearhead will eventually be levelled at the other countries adhering to independence, and the world will plunge into a gloom where the U.S. holds sway over everything.

The U.S. and its vassal forces, which always suffer crushing defeats in the overall politico-military confrontation with the DPRK, may resort to much more despicable and barbarous sanctions, but they can never check the advance of the DPRK, marching towards the final victory in the building of a powerful socialist country by dint of self-reliance and self-development.

As the U.S. and other hostile forces become more frantic in their moves to impose the toughest sanctions and pressure on the DPRK, the hatred and rage of the army and people of the country will only grow stronger and the DPRK will further speed up the strengthening of its nuclear force to root out the base of aggression and all evils.